

LONG PALINDROMES FROM A TO Z

JEFF GRANT

Hastings, New Zealand

Since *The Palindromicon* was produced back in 1991, Dan Tilque and I have been searching for new 'dromes in an effort to increase the collection from its original 2332 specimens up to 4004. This target has now almost been reached, and we hope to have *Palindromicon 2* published in the appropriate year 2002.

Many of the longest palindromes are two- or multi-word terms, foreign words, coinages, made-up personal and business names, extended exclamations, and such.

Here are the longest solid-form palindromes so far found for each letter of the alphabet. Note that placenames and surnames have been included. A number of these long examples will be familiar to palindrome lovers, but I'm sure there are some that haven't been exhibited before.

AFGOTOGFA a genus of hymenopterans (NZ)

ALLENELLA the name of a mollusc (NZ)

ARRAWARRA an Australian town in northern coastal New South Wales
(Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Places, 1992)

BURGGRUB the name of three villages in Bavaria, Germany (EWA)

CILDLIC old form of 'childlike' (An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, Bosworth & Toller, 1964)

CINENIC pertaining to cinene, a terpene derived from cineol (OED)

CIVOVIC surname of Vlada Civovic of Lakewood, Ohio (PhD)

DETARTRATED with the tartrate removed (26 references on Altavista)
Apple Juice Concentrate, Medium Acid 'Less than 2% by
volume/product is detartrated'

ELLEMELLE a small community southwest of Liege in Belgium (EWA)

FINNIF a slang term for five dollars (OED)

GNIPPING given to fault-finding (EDD)

GWALLAWG a Welsh name meaning either 'hawk' or 'stammer' (History
of Christian Names, C.M. Yonge, 1863)

HADADAH a large brown-green ibis (OED)

HADEDAH a greyish brown ibis (Web 3)

HAGIGAH particular Jewish sacrifices (Web 3)

HALALAH monetary unit of Saudi Arabia (Web 3)

HAQIQAH esoteric truth that transcends human and theological limitations (Concise Encyclopedia of Islam, C. Glasse, 1989)

HAZIZAH a term connected with the rite of total immersion (Encyclopedia Judaica, 1972)

(There are also places called HAJIJAH, HAMAMAH, HARIRAH, HAZAZAH and HELALEH in various gazetteers, and the surnames HADIDAH, HALILAH and HARARAH also exist)

ILLIBILLI a town in the Sudan (EWA)

JILLIJ the name of a lighthouse in Tunisia (OSNG, Tunisia)

KINNIKINNIK a tobacco substitute used by North American Indians (OED)

LEHAHEL one of eight seraphim in the cabala (A Dictionary of Angels, G. Davidson, 1967)

LLEWELL a Welsh surname (Auckland, New Zealand telephone directory)

MALAYALAM the Dravidian language of Kerala, southern India, closely related to Tamil (Web 3)

NAURUAN an inhabitant of the Pacific island of Nauru (Web 3)

NIRURIN a constituent of the tropical plant *Phyllanthus niruri* (Dictionary of Natural Products, Chapman & Hall, 1994)

NORURON the chemical $C_{13}H_{22}N_{20}$. (DCNS)

(There are also places called NASASAN, NAWAWAN, NEUHUEN, NEUQUEN and NOAGAON in various gazetteers, and the surnames NAIMIAN, NAIRIAN and NENONEN have been recorded)

OOLOOPOOLOO a Pittapittic language spoken in Queensland, Australia (Classification and Index of the World's Languages, C.F. & F.M. Voegelin, 1977)

PARAPARAP a populated place in the state of Victoria, Australia (Australia 1:250,000 Map Series Gazetteer, 1975)

QAANAAQ a settlement in northwest Greenland, the approved form of Qânâq, in Thule (Gazetteer of Greenland, 1983)

ROTAVATOR a rotary cultivator (OED)

SANANANAS pale-yellow West Indian crabs (DJE)

SEMITIMES half-times, a mysterious biblical word (Web 2)

SHALALAHS a former Indian village on the Umpqua River in western Oregon (Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, F.W. Hodge, 1907)

SIMIDIMIS Jamaican dances (DJE)

SOBOSOBOS African black nightshades (Hamlyn Encyclopedic World Dictionary, 1971)

(In addition, pluralising surnames, there are SAGAYAGAS,

SAKUHUKAS, SANATANAS, SARAVARAS, SEDIKIDES, SELESELES, SERESERES, SIDEREDIS, STRANARTS, STRELERTS, SULUSULUS and others in various phone directories)

TATTARRATTAT a knocking sound (OED)

UBURUBU a town in Nigeria (EWA)

URAHARU a town in the Kagoshima region, Japan (EWA)

UREMERU a town in Colombia (EWA)

URUBURU a surname with many entries (PhD)

UWOLOWU surpreme god of the Akposo in Togo (Guide to the Gods, M. Leach, 1992)

VELLEV a town in Denmark (Times Atlas of the World, 1978)

VOLLOV surname of two California residents (PhD)

WASSAMASSAW the northeast extension of Cypress Swamp, Dorchester County, South Carolina (American Placenames, G.R. Stewart, 1970)

XANAX a drug used to treat certain anxiety states (Random House Dictionary, 2nd Edition, 1987)

XITIX a name for L-ascorbic acid (DCNS)

XOLOX a locality in central Mexico (Aug 1965 edition of the Official Guide to Railways)

XUNIX Manuel Xunix (1995 San Francisco telephone directory)

YARBRAY a surname listed many times (PhD)

YUCUCUY a populated place in Mexico (OSNG, Mexico)

ZELLEZ surname of R. Zellez (Chicago telephone directory)

REFERENCES

DCNS Dictionary of Chemical Names and Symbols, P.H. Howard and M. Neal, 1992

DJE Dictionary of Jamaican English, 2nd Edition, Cassidy & LePage, 1980

EDD English Dialect Dictionary, Joseph Wright, 1970

EWA Encarta World Atlas, 1998

NZ Nomenclator Zoologicus, published by the Zoological Society, London

OED Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Edition, 1989

OSNG Official Standard Names Gazetteer

PhD PhoneDisc, June 1995

Web 2 Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, 1934

Web 3 Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary, 3rd Edition, 1976